

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES**

#### **ACTION**

- On April 9, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the current rule that limits emissions of toxic air pollutants from iron and steel foundries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- EPA's proposed amendments add a new compliance option and clarify several requirements in the existing rule. The proposed changes will improve understanding of the rule requirements. EPA expects that these changes, if made final, would resolve issues raised by industry trade associations after promulgation of the rule in 2004.
- The new compliance option would apply to the furnaces that melt the metal (called cupolas) located at existing foundries. Plants would be able to comply with alternative emissions limits of 0.10 pounds of particulate matter per ton of metal charged or 0.008 pounds of total metals per ton of metal charged.
- Other proposed amendments address issues concerning the opacity limit for fugitive emissions, the triethylamine emissions limit; the standards for preheaters and capture and control systems; the requirements for scrap selection and inspection plans, operation and maintenance of process equipment and monitoring systems, performance tests, baghouse monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting; and definitions.
- The air toxics emitted from foundries contain metals such as lead and manganese and numerous organic compounds, including benzene, dioxin, and formaldehyde. These air toxic emissions are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancer and disorders of the respiratory, reproductive, and central nervous systems.
- The proposed amendments do not change the stringency of the existing standards or materially change the rule requirements. After compliance in 2007, EPA expects air toxic emissions from foundry operations to be reduced by more than 800 tons per year. No non-air health, environmental, energy, or cost impacts will occur as a result of the amendments.
- EPA will accept comments for 30 days after the proposal is published in the *Federal Register*.

## BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants.
- EPA's published list of source categories includes iron and steel foundries.
- For major sources within each source category, the CAA requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels reflecting the maximum achievable control technology. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- The existing standards establish emission limits for different types of process equipment in addition to work practice requirements which minimize the amount of contaminants contained in charge materials.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's proposed rule amendments and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
  - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0034.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0034 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - o Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>),
  - o e-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)),
  - o Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or

o Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

- For additional information, visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw>, or contact Mr. Phil Mulrine of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5289 or by email at [mulrine.phil@epa.gov](mailto:mulrine.phil@epa.gov).